

I further ask unanimous consent that the chair not entertain a motion to adjourn or recess for the August recess prior to a vote on or in relation to the majority leader's bill and the minority leader's amendment, and following those votes, it be in order for the majority leader, to return the legislation to the calendar.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that it not be in order to offer any legislation, motion or amendment relative to Health Care prior to the initiation of this agreement, and following the execution of the agreement, it not be in order to offer any legislation, motion or amendment relative to Health Care for the remainder of the 105th Congress.

Mr. KENNEDY. So you can't offer anything to do with the health care of the American people prior to this, or after this, or after the Republican leader puts this proposal back on the calendar to shelve it. In other words, the Republican leadership says to the Senate of the United States: You can't deal with anything affecting the health care of the American people for the rest of this Congress.

Come on, Mr. President. Come on, Mr. President. This is just the day after the Republican leadership tried to sink the tobacco bill. Now they are out there trying to deny us the opportunity to debate one of the most important health care bills that is before the American people.

Mr. President, it is just unbelievable to me to think that the majority leader's proposal was going to be considered in good faith by our Democratic leader, or by any Member—not just leadership—by any Member. We are all equals in this body.

Those who are interested in health care ought to be concerned when a proposal is put forward to muzzle the U.S. Senate on health care. What does the Republican leadership fear? What do they fear about a full and open debate on the Patients' Bill of Rights? What do they fear in a debate about trying to give an opportunity for the Senate to express itself to permit our uninsured citizens between the ages of 55 and 64 to be able to buy into the Medicare system? What do they fear about having an open and full debate on that issue, if the individuals are going to pay full premiums? What do they have to fear about the possibility of requiring that companies of 50 or more employees have some requirement to provide health care for their employees? Can't we have a debate on that issue? Can't we have a rollcall on that issue?

Some will agree. Some will differ. Let the American people make a judgment about how their representatives stand. No, no, not if the majority leader, on behalf of the Republicans, have their way.

This proposal says "not be in order to offer any legislation, motion, or amendment relative to health care prior to the initiation of the agreement," which is sometime just before the August recess, for the next several weeks, and for the rest of this session following completion of this proposed agreement. If we were to proceed with it, we would be absolutely curtailed

from any kind of effort to try to address health care for the American people. This could even preclude further consideration of tobacco legislation, or proposals to extend health insurance to uninsured Americans between the ages of 55 and 64, or improvements in Medicare package for senior citizens, or appropriations for the National Institutes of Health and other health programs, or legislation on the privacy of medical records—the list goes on and on.

Many of us believe that as we move on into the millennium, it is going to be the millennium of the life sciences with extraordinary scientific breakthroughs. And the Republican leader wants to silence us from having some opportunity to debate that priority?

Mr. President, it prohibits consideration of any legislation dealing with the problems of the privacy of our medical records, and the dangers that exist in terms of the proliferation of medical records. There are enormously important issues relating to the privacy of medical records that Republicans and Democrats have tried to address. But we are foreclosed from any opportunity to consider that under this proposal.

Mr. President, it often takes, as we all know, many votes to pass legislation important to American families. Rarely can we do so on the first attempt. These arbitrary, unfair restrictions serve only to strengthen the power of the special interests. We have heard where those special interests are. We understand what they are doing at the present time—raising millions of dollars, and going on with these distortions and misrepresentations.

The networks were hardly quiet after the tobacco industry was able to disrupt the kind of successful conclusion of legislation here in the U.S. Senate that would protect our children. The airwaves are polluted again with distortions and millions of dollars in trying to do a similar job on the Patients' Bill of Rights. They are not going to succeed in either one, Mr. President.

It is said that you can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time.

This unanimous consent request isn't going to fool any of the people any of the time. The American people want patient protections. They deserve them and know parliamentary maneuvers. No public relations campaign is going to allow the Republican leadership to avoid responsibility if this Congress does not pass strong HMO reform legislation this year.

REGULATING THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I rise to comment on the concerns I have about recent proposals to dramatically change the regulatory structure of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Recently, legislation was introduced to make dramatic changes in the regulatory structure of TVA, starting with the

granting of regulatory authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

TVA has had remarkably stable rates over the last decade, with only one significant rate increase during this time period. I agreed that TVA has not been run perfectly through the years. However, to consider a substantial regulatory overhaul for this agency at a time when comprehensive electric industry deregulation is right around the corner appears to me to be premature and unwise. Legislation to impose additional regulatory controls at a time when the Congress is beginning to seriously consider significantly less regulation for the rest of the industry seems contradictory to me.

In addition, I have concerns about the impact of such a proposal on the coal industry in my state. I would strongly oppose efforts to impose a new federal regulatory layer that may limit the flexibility of TVA to purchase Kentucky coal. TVA buys over 26 million tons of Kentucky coal per year, which adds \$600 million to the economy of my State. TVA is responsible for more than 20 percent of all coal purchases in Kentucky.

I have heard from many Kentuckians who are concerned about this new regulatory proposal. I wish to place my colleagues on notice that I will strongly oppose any such regulatory scheme, and will oppose other overhaul efforts outside of the context of deregulation legislation. It makes no sense to consider two major regulatory changes in such a short period of time.

UTAH JAZZ—WESTERN CONFERENCE NBA CHAMPS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my home team, the Utah Jazz, on their remarkable season and thrilling playoff run. For the second straight year, the Jazz won the NBA's Western Conference in impressive fashion and lost a well-fought series to the Chicago Bulls by the slimmest of margins.

As one of the team's most faithful fans, I share the heartache of the players and coaches, who came so close to reaching their goal only to fall one point short of a seventh game. However, I am confident that Jazz fans everywhere share my feelings of pride in the season that these gutsy, tenacious players gave us to enjoy.

To those players who believe that professional sports have become just another business with big salaries and product licenses, I will simply say that the Utah Jazz personify everything that is good about the game of basketball. The Jazz believe in teamwork, pure fundamentals, courage, and determination.

Basketball fans throughout the country have become enamored with the